

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10, 31 and 37 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting, storing and forwarding account information and associated account approval information for use with prospective credit or debit transactions between terminals, on one hand, and hosts of financial institutions that maintain financial accounts and are parties to said transactions, on the other, enabling account withdrawals and charge requests to be initiated by either the accountholder himself or by someone other than the accountholder, using an authorization code as a substitute for said account and the associated account approval information, allowing either said terminal or the host of the financial institution involved in said prospective credit or debit transaction to acquire said account and associated account approval information from a non-fiduciary external source, not a party to the transaction and herein called a "trigger server", outside of the boundaries of said credit or debit transaction and its associated parties, as if said account and associated account approval information had been supplied to at least

one party to said transaction by the accountholder himself;
which system comprises:

a) an input terminal in which an accountholder provides data indicating an account from where funds could be withdrawn or to where charges could be made, additionally, any associated account approval information required for the effective use of said account, and account use restriction information, if any, comprising the terms and conditions for allowing an external credit or debit transaction to utilize said account, which account use restriction information may include a cap value on the amount of said external credit or debit transaction, all of which are transmitted to;

b) a trigger server, independent of the financial institution that maintains the account, which stores said account information, as well as said corresponding account approval information along with said account use restriction information, if any, in association with a an authorization code known to the accountholder, and thereafter delivers said account information and associated account approval information

either to said terminal or to the host of the financial institution involved in said prospective credit or debit transaction in response to a request carrying an authorization code, provided that the verification of said authorization code is successful, and that said prospective external credit or debit transaction complies with said account use restriction information, if any, as set by the accountholder; and

c) a requesting terminal, set to participate in a prospective credit or debit transaction with a host, which receives an authorization code from a presenter, as an alternate payment method for said credit or debit transaction, and transmits said entered authorization code to said trigger server, along with additional information, if any, about said prospective credit or debit transaction, in a request for acquiring said account and associated account approval information from the trigger server, to be used in said prospective credit or debit transaction between said terminal and host, as if said account and associated account approval information had been supplied to said external credit or debit transaction by the accountholder

himself, and provided that said prospective credit or debit transaction complies with said account use restriction information, if any, as set by the accountholder.

2. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input terminal includes means for collecting and transmitting said data to said trigger server, comprising at least one of an automated teller machine, a credit or debit card block, a point of sale machine, a personal computer, a lotto machine, a touch-tone telephone, a fax machine, and a wireless device.

3. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input terminal generates a random authorization code, and transmits said authorization code to the trigger server for storage and association with said account and account approval information.

4. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the authorization code is established by the sender via keyboard input, digitally, optically or magnetically.

5. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input terminal also includes at least one of a monitor screen, a barcode reader, a printing device, a magnetic-card writer and a magnetic card reader.

6. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the authorization code is printed as numbers, letters, symbols, or barcode, or is digitally, magnetically or optically stored.

7. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the requesting terminal includes means for transmitting said authorization code to said trigger server, comprising at least one of an automated teller machine, a credit or debit card block, a point of sale machine, a personal computer, a lotto machine, a fax machine, a wireless device and a touch-tone telephone.

8. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the requesting terminal also includes at least one of a monitor screen, a printing device, a barcode reader and a magnetic card reader.

9. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the account is any account capable of being authorized electronically, including at least one of a credit account, a checking account, a savings account, a money market account, an investment account and a telephone account.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling collection, storage and delivery of account information and associated account approval information for use with prospective credit and debit transactions between terminals and hosts of financial institutions that maintain financial accounts and are parties to said transactions, allowing account withdrawals and charge requests to be initiated by either the accountholder himself or someone other than the accountholder, using an authorization code as a substitute for said account and associated account approval information, enabling either said terminal or a host involved in said prospective credit or debit transaction to acquire said account information and associated account approval information from a non-fiduciary external source, not a party to the transaction and herein called a "trigger server", outside of the boundaries of said credit or debit

transaction and its associated parties, as if said account and associated account approval information had been supplied to at least one party to said transaction by the accountholder himself, which method comprises the steps of:

a) an accountholder providing data indicating an account from where funds could be withdrawn or to where charges could be made, additionally, any associated account approval information necessary for the effective use of said account, and account use restriction information, if any, comprising the terms and conditions for allowing an external credit or debit transaction to utilize said account, which account restriction information may include a cap value on the amount of said external credit or debit transaction;

b) transmitting said data to said a trigger server, independent of the financial institution that maintains the account, which trigger server stores said account information, said corresponding account approval information and said account use restriction information, if any, for said account, in association with an authorization code known to the accountholder;

c) entering said authorization code at a requesting terminal, as an alternate payment method for said prospective credit or debit transaction between said terminal and a the host of the financial institution involved in the transaction;

d) causing a request to said trigger server, from either the terminal or the host involved in said prospective credit or debit transaction, containing the entered authorization code as well as additional information about said credit or debit prospective transaction, if available, in an attempt to acquire said account information and associated account approval information corresponding to said authorization code, to be used as the withdrawal or charge account for said prospective credit or debit transaction, by said terminal or said host involved in the transaction;

e) the trigger server verifying the authenticity of the entered authorization code as well as the compliance of said prospective credit or debit transaction with the

terms and conditions associated with said authorization code, if any, as previously set by the accountholder;

f) the trigger server delivering to said terminal or said host the account information and associated account approval information corresponding to said entered authorization code upon validation of said entered authorization code;

g) the trigger server enabling said account and associated account approval information to be used as the charge or withdrawal account for said prospective credit or debit transaction between said terminal and said host without further participating in any liability related to the outcome of said transaction; and

h) allowing said credit or debit transaction attempt to occur between said terminal and host utilizing the acquired said account information and associated account approval information from said trigger server, as if said account information and associated account

approval information had been supplied to said credit or debit transaction by the accountholder himself.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein accountholder is charged a service charge at the input terminal.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a service charge is imposed at the requesting terminal.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, which further comprises entering a beneficiary account to where money should be remitted.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said beneficiary account is an account capable of receiving funds electronically, including at least one of a checking account, a money market account, an investment account, and a savings account.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the beneficiary account is entered via at least one of a magnetic or digital card, keyboard input, and a barcode reader.

17. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises means at the requesting terminal for entering personal identification.

18. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said identification is input via at least one of a keyboard, a magnetic or digital card, and a barcode reader.

19. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the accountholder is charged a service charge at the input terminal.

20. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a service charge is imposed at the requesting terminal.

21. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises means for entering a beneficiary account to where money should be remitted.

22. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein said beneficiary account is an account capable of receiving funds electronically, including at least one of a checking account, a money market account, an investment account, and a savings account.

23. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 21, wherein the beneficiary account is entered via at least one of a magnetic or digital card, keyboard input, and a barcode reader.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said step of entering the authorization code at a requesting terminal further comprises a step of entering personal identification.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the input terminal is capable of receiving and transmitting additional terms and conditions for the use of said accounts.

27. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 26, wherein said server is capable of storing said terms and conditions for the use of the accounts in association with said authorization codes.

28. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 27, wherein said requests for said data include additional information about said transactions.

29. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 28, wherein said additional terms and conditions include at least one of (1) a cap value on the amount of the transaction, (2) dates and times when the use of the account could or could not be permitted, and (3) the identity of payees to which the use of the account is or is not allowed.

30. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 29, wherein said server transmits said account information to said requesting terminal only if said transactions comply with said terms and conditions.

31. (Currently Amended) A system for collecting, storing and delivering data relating to chargeable financial accounts for use in credit and debit transactions, based upon authorization codes, from a computer server, called a "trigger server", that is independent of the financial institutions that maintain said accounts and are parties to said transactions, said system comprising, in combination:

a) a ~~computer~~ trigger server which receives, stores and delivers data defining a plurality of chargeable accounts for use in credit and debit transactions, as well as any additional information required for the effective use of said accounts, along with an authorization code associated with each account, wherein said trigger server is not a party to said transactions and is independent of the financial institution that maintains each account;

b) an input terminal which receives said data from account holders and transmits said data to said server;
and

c) a requesting terminal which receives authorization codes from users and transmits them to said trigger server to acquire said data for use in effecting said transactions;

wherein said users may be said account holders or persons acting in behalf of said account holders.

32. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the input terminal is capable of receiving and transmitting additional terms and conditions for the use of said accounts.

33. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 32, wherein said server is capable of storing said terms and conditions for the use of the accounts in association with said authorization codes.

34. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 33, wherein said requests for said data include additional information about said transactions.

35. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 34, wherein said additional terms and conditions include at

least one of (1) a cap value on the amount of the transaction, (2) dates and times when the use of the account could or could not be permitted, and (3) the identity of payees to which the use of the account is or is not allowed.

36. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 35, wherein said server transmits said account information to said requesting terminal only if said transactions comply with said terms and conditions.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting, storing and delivering financial accounts for use in credit and debit transactions, based upon authorization codes, from a computer server, called a "trigger server" not a party to said transactions and independent of the financial institution that maintains said accounts, which method comprises the steps of:

a) collecting data defining a plurality of chargeable accounts for use in credit and debit transactions, as well as any additional information required for the effective use of said accounts;

- b) transmitting said data to a ~~computer~~ trigger server ~~controlled by an institution~~ which is independent of the financial institutions that maintain said accounts and is not a party to said transactions;
- c) said trigger server confirming receiving and storing said data in association with a unique authorization code for each account;
- d) entering authorization codes at a requesting terminal;
- e) transmitting requests for acquiring said data to said trigger server, utilizing said entered authorization codes; and
- f) said trigger server validating said requests and delivering said data associated with said entered authorization code for use in said transactions, with no further involvement of said trigger server ~~institution~~ in said transactions.

38. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 37, further comprising the steps of transmitting to said server, in addition to said data, terms and conditions for use of an account, and storing said terms and conditions in said server in association with said data about said account and said associated authorization code.

39. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the steps of transmitting additional information about transactions to said server, in addition to said request for acquiring said data for said transaction, and validating said request only if the transaction complies with said terms and conditions.